

# UVAC 'State of the Nation'

08/07/2022



CENTRE  
FOR DEGREE  
APPRENTICESHIPS



CENTRE  
FOR DEGREE  
APPRENTICESHIPS  
KNOWLEDGE NETWORKS

# ...

## Agenda

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Rob Stroud– QAA – EQA of EPA
3. Policy Update from Mandy
4. Updates from John and Rebecca
5. Final Word

Questions Welcome at Any Time



Designated Quality Body  
in England

# External Quality Assurance of End-Point Assessment Organisations

**Rob Stroud – Director of Quality Assessment**

**UVAC – 8 July 2022**

# Background

- Originally being explored by QAA – pilot activity pre-pandemic
- Consultation by IfATE in 2020 – EQA rationalisation
- Underpinning arrangements developed over the course of 2021
- Translating pilot activity into an approach that works with regard to the EQA Framework and Manual, and works for a HE environment
- Minimising burden but ensuring stakeholder expectations are met
- OfS has retained oversight of all HE provision throughout

# What is happening now?

- Publicly launched the handbook and materials
- Recruiting and training DQB assessors
- Engaging employer representatives
- Initial assessment activity (readiness check) over the summer with an initial small group of providers
- Wider roll-out in autumn (readiness checks and monitoring checks)

# EQA method

## 1 Readiness check

- **Readiness checks of providers** by an assessment team to approve EPA delivery, the provider action plan and the arrangements for monitoring

## 2 EQA monitoring

- **Ongoing monitoring** by the DQB Officer to review progress
- **EQA external assessor monitoring** (typically the provider's external examiner) to assess delivery of the EPA
- **Monitoring checks** to assess delivery of the EPA and agree action plans

Reporting throughout to IfATE and OfS

# Readiness check

- Desk based process
- Conducted by DQB Officer, DQB Assessor, Employer Representative
- Initially we will seek to do a whole provider at once to minimise burden – different approach for new standards
- Expect to draw upon materials already in existence – beyond the readiness check document not expecting providers to create new information
- Assessing against IfATE specified requirements
- Will result in one of four judgements, and actions and recommendations

# Monitoring

## Ongoing monitoring

- At least once a year per standard
- Looking at the actions and recommendations
- Changes to the External Assessor arrangements
- External Assessor report
- Can lead to changes to the overall monitoring arrangements



# Monitoring

## **EQA External assessor monitoring**

- EQA External Assessor = normally the external examiner
- Not the external assessor used for the EPA process
- Reporting requirements are likely to be similar to existing EE reporting arrangements (para 50 of guidance)
- Requirement to share information about the arrangements being put in place and on an ongoing basis

# Monitoring

## Monitoring check

- At least once every three years for each standard
- Different standards may operate to a different schedule on a risk based basis
- Self assessment required
- Visit required
- Results in a formal outcome, actions, and recommendations
- Considered by the OfS as evidence in relation to condition B4

# Feedback opportunities

- We are keen to hear feedback from the sector regarding the approach
- IfATE are also keen to understand how things are working – and also are looking at how the EQA framework could be updated
- Where could things be clearer? Will anything pose a particular challenge?

# What should I do now?

- Read the guidance
- Check your ILR data is accurate and up to date, and check your listing on the ROEPAO
- Prepare for readiness checks
- Prepare for monitoring checks
- Sign up for our webinars if you have questions

# Thank you...

Further questions can be submitted to **qae@qaa.ac.uk**

© Designated Quality Body for England 2022

c/o The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, Southgate House, Southgate Street, Gloucester GL1 1UB  
Registered charity numbers 1062746 and SC037786

<https://dqbengland.org.uk>

# Policy Update

**Mandy Crawford-Lee**  
**Chief Executive, UVAC**



# Higher Level Skills – Reflections

- T levels, Applied Generals and the Technical Pathway
- Higher Technical Education (HTE) and Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs)
- Degree Apprenticeships
- Lifelong Loan Entitlement and RPL/RPEL/APEL
- Review of the Apprenticeship Levy
- Government Changes

**Impact of the above on HE provision as a whole**

# T Levels, Applied Generals and the Technical Pathway

- Proposed Mainstream Offer at 16 - 18
- Some Opportunity for smaller Applied Generals to be combined with A Levels, but Applied Generals (e.g., BTEC and Cambridge Nationals) were threatened to become 'rare'...
- A coalition of 30 organisations undertaking on-going lobbying on the value of the **Applied General** – focus on choice, distinctiveness of Applied Generals, role in access and participation via The #ProtectStudentChoice campaign
- See recent HEPI report on value of Applied Generals [HERE](#)
- **T Levels** – first cohorts in *construction, digital, and education and childcare* get their results on '*A level and T Level results day*'
  - Communication and briefings forthcoming from DfE via UVAC



# Higher Technical Education and HTQs

- **Higher Technical Qualifications** – an IfATE Quality Mark for level 4 and 5 technical qualifications mapped to and approved against Occupational Standards
- Will HTQs grow?
  - Number Caps (on other types of provision)??
  - Financial Incentives/Disincentives for other provision??
  - Where will HTQs grow – employer and individual demand, e.g., Health and Social Care?
- **IfATE Approvals process** – mostly positive
- **Competition** – with Ofqual regulated FE qualifications and issues of credit size
- £10m OU pilot to validate college delivery at Levels 4 and 5
- **Quality** – Ofsted versus OfS/QAA? History repeating...?
- Articulation and progression with bachelor's degrees?

# Degree Apprenticeships

- Degree Apprenticeships = a brilliant UK invention
- England Apprenticeships = an aspirational programme
- Degree Apprenticeships = Progression Routes strengthened
- Ministers' intentions = more HEIs delivering
- IfATE's Policy Refresh = a 'new' and strengthened DA brand
- Degree Apprenticeship Growth Plan = removing barriers to engagement and establishing the place for and role of targets
  - <https://feweek.co.uk/five-ways-michelle-donelan-can-grow-degree-apprenticeships-without-a-cheque-book/>
  - <https://wonkhe.com/blogs/a-vocational-view-on-access-and-participation/>
- UVAC Draft Plan: <https://uvac.ac.uk/uvac-calls-for-degree-apprenticeship-growth-plan/>
- Strategic Priorities Grant Funding = £8m investment

# ... Lifelong Loan Entitlement and RPL

- **1<sup>st</sup> consultation** - The Lifelong Loan Entitlement (LLE): see UVAC's consultation response [HERE](#)
- See UUK's consultation response [HERE](#)
- See our article in FE News [HERE](#)
  - **Our key messages:**
    1. We are supportive of the new system and LLE ambition
    2. Need a greater understanding of the level of demand for modular study and typical learner
    3. New system must ensure articulation with degrees with modules that can build into a qualification
    4. Employer contribution and relevance is absent
    5. RPL and system of FE/HE credit transfer needs a new narrative
  - **\*\*NEW\*\* Knowledge Network** on national standards for RPL for health education

# Review of the Apprenticeship Levy

- See our FE News article 'A review of the apprenticeship levy and how the tax system incentivises employers to invest in training' [HERE](#) and our latest FE Week article 'Let's prioritise skills spending on level 4 to level 7' [HERE](#)
- Key issues we would focus on:
  1. The Role of the State, Individual and Employer in Paying for Training
  2. A Focus on Future Skills Needs and Skills Gaps and Shortages
  3. Skills Policy Should Not be Focused on Rectifying the Failures of the School System
  4. Avoiding a Focus on the Magic Bullet
- UVAC and CMI will be producing a full policy/position paper in August, ahead of the autumn statement

# Westminster Government

- New Secretary of State for Education – James Cleverly, MP

## What Next..?

- Former Minister Donelan's ambition for the Lifelong Loan Entitlement:  
“Post-recovery Britain can become a skills powerhouse, with a further and higher education system that is accessible to all, and that acts as an engine for social mobility – real social mobility which focuses on getting on as much as getting in” (2021)
- Universities ordered to set “ambitious targets” to boost the proportion of students studying degree apprenticeships
- DfE was exploring “financial incentives” to entice more universities to offer degree apprenticeships

# Degree Apprenticeship Knowledge Networks (DAKNs)



...

## DAKNs – 2022/2023 Session

Five networks –

1. PCDA
2. Academic Professional
3. Social Worker
4. Chartered Manager
5. Hub Manager's

...

## DAKNs – 2022/2023 Session

Each network –

Autumn – Digital

Spring – Face to Face

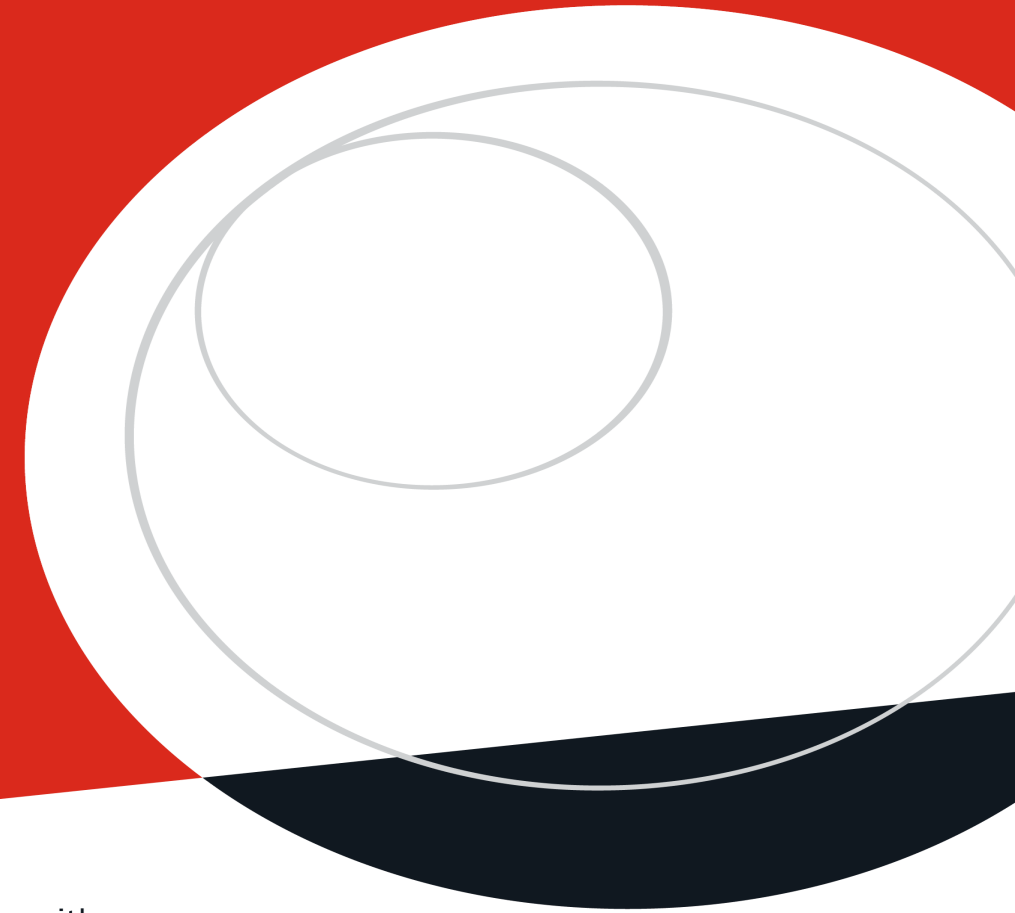
Summer – Digital

Integrating DAKN meetings with UVAC  
Webinars where relevant

Provisional – Autumn 2022 Programme				
	Oct	Nov		Dec
PCDA	X		C O N F	
A Professional	X			
CMDA		X		
Social Work		X		
Hub. Mgr				X



# Future Webinars & Support



In partnership with



CENTRE  
FOR DEGREE  
APPRENTICESHIPS



CENTRE  
FOR DEGREE  
APPRENTICESHIPS  
KNOWLEDGE NETWORKS

Copyright UVAC and The Centre for Degree Apprenticeships



# ... **2022/2023 Autumn / Spring – ‘Managing Complexity’**

- Embedding Off the Job Learning
- Apprenticeship Accountability Framework
- Risk Management
- Monitoring And Observations – Teaching and Tri-partite reviews
- INA & SkillScans- effective diagnostics
- EQA
- Using the Apprentice Voice
- Recognition of Prior Learning
- EPA Integration
- Audit & Risk using PDSAT / FMR
- Subcontracting
- Safeguarding and supporting Apprentices



# ... **2022/2023 Autumn / Spring – ‘Managing Complexity’**

- Focus on: Action Plans & Priorities
- Supported by: Document & Templates Suite
- Mix of:
  - Sessions with speakers
  - Longer sessions with time for more discussion
  - School focussed sessions
  - Workshops on critical topics
- Member speakers where possible to offer good practice, new ideas, or simply to share experience

# Final Word

- Recording of this SoTN Address available plus slides ++ **briefing note** on key issues discussed this month can be found [HERE](#)
- Next SoTN Friday 7 October at 12 noon: [REGISTER HERE](#)
- UVAC National Conference Wednesday, 23 November 2022
  - Theme: *Learning from practice: from digital to design to performance and policy in higher technical and professional education and skills including higher and degree apprenticeships*
  - [REGISTER HERE](#)
  - Keynotes include HMI Paul Joyce and Peter Nelson reflecting on the first 18 months of L6/7 inspection in apprenticeships
- UVAC Membership Renewal for AY 2022/23 - **NOW UNDERWAY**

**\*\*HAVE A GREAT SUMMER\*\***